

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE.

SKETCHES

OF

LEGISLATORS

AND

STATE OFFICERS

1876-1878.

BY JOHN CARDWELL.

AUSTIN, TEXAS:
DEMOCRATIC STATESMAN STEEL-PLATE PRINT.
1876.

THIRTY-FIRST DISTRICT.

Counties.—Trinity and Walker.

REPRESENTATIVE SAM Y. SMITH was born in Texas, September 20, 1841 ; was raised and educated in Texas, and graduated in Austin College in 1859. He belonged to Hood's Brigade, C. S. A., and after the war settled at Galveston and remained there for five years in the mercantile business ; returned to Huntsville, where he had been raised, and became a banker ; was returned in 1874 as a Democratic member of the Fourteenth Texas Legislature, and held the position for two weeks ; resigned it to J. V. Lea, also a Democrat, who had received a larger number of

votes than himself, but who was refused the certificate of election in consequence of informality in returns. Mr. Smith's magnanimous conduct in giving the position to Mr. Lea was recognized by the House as an act worthy of special mention. He was nominated for the Fifteenth Legislature by the Democrats and elected by 351 majority. He is chairman of the Committee on Public Debt and a member of other financial committees.

He resides with his family in Huntsville, and is universally esteemed as a member of society.